

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
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PRINTS AND PAINTINGS
BY PIERO DORAZIO
DISPLAYED AT MUSEUM

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About 100 works by 38-year-old Piero Dorazio, one of Italy's foremost contemporary painters, will be on view September 14 through November 7 at The Cleveland Museum of Art. Prints, drawings and watercolors by Dorazio will be shown in the Museum's prints and drawings corridor and a selection of his paintings will be displayed in Gallery 26. An original Dorazio aquatint in three colors will be distributed to members of The Print Club of Cleveland during the exhibition period. It is the Print Club's 42nd publication.

The exhibit comprehensively surveys Dorazio's print-making career. The artist is considered a color lithographer of unsurpassed skill and he is equally adept at the classic black and white print process.

The show is accompanied by a Museum-prepared, illustrated catalog, the text of which deals with Dorazio's technique and which was written by Edward B. Henning, the Museum's Curator of Contemporary Art.

Mr. Henning says: "On the level of simple observation, Dorazio's mature paintings and prints are physical forms made up of varying series of straight lines organized in specific ways. Variations in direction, width, color, thickness of pigment, intensity of hue, and the number of successive layers all contribute to the complexity and character of the final work. But ... as with all true artists, Dorazio is involved not with structure alone but with nuance. Subtle variations and modulations of basic patterns create a spare and refined 'feast for the eye'". As he works he finds the painting.

His "earlier works appear to be related to the 'concrete' abstractions of such painters as Malevitch, the artists of the 'neo-Plastic' groups, and Magnelli". But about 1954, although his work still retained much of the character of the stricter

geometrical style, the severity of the earlier canvases became more relaxed and they began to take on a familiar "all-over" character. Dorazio acknowledged a debt to post-war American painting, that of Jackson Pollock in particular. Then, with his most recent canvases Dorazio has taken his place along with Morris Louis and Mark Rothko as an artist who has fully developed both the sensuous and the poetic possibilities of color.

Dorazio began drawing and painting at age 14. Within six years the French Government awarded him a scholarship which took him to Paris for a year. After returning to Italy he organized, in Rome and Florence, a co-operative artist gallery for international avantgarde exhibitions and publications. He also organized a ceramic studio. In the United States he participated at Harvard University's Summer International Seminar and contributed to a program at the School of Fine Arts at the University of Pennsylvania. Dorazio has taught and written articles on modern art and has published a book on the international tradition of modern art. He executed a large mural relief for the Milan Triennale and has had numerous one-man and group exhibitions here and in Europe, including the Venice and Paris Biennale.⁵ Some of his works are in the permanent collections of European and American museums.